

RIVER STAGES AND FLOODS FOR AUGUST 1947

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Precipitation during August was below normal over most of the United States. There were several spots scattered throughout the country where precipitation was normal or above: the largest area, in the southern Rockies, comprised Utah, Arizona, and adjacent areas of Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. Rainfall was comparatively heavy in southern and eastern Texas. A broad area through the central part of the country reported less than half the normal rainfall for August.

There was no general flooding during the month, although scattered summer storms caused local floods in Ohio, Virginia, and Colorado. Heavy rains associated with the remnants of a tropical storm caused some flooding of the Little River in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Unusually heavy rains near and east of Hazard, Ky., on August 3-5, resulted in a flash flood on the North Fork, a headwater tributary of the Kentucky River. The river at Hazard rose 14 feet within 6 hours. There was a sharp rise at Jackson, Ky., the next station downstream, but flood stage was not reached. Flooding was confined to low spots along the stream. There was considerable damage to property but no lives were lost.

A flash flood was reported on the afternoon of August 12 in a normally dry gulch 18 miles west of Canon City, Colo. The floodwaters collapsed a bridge over the gulch; a truck which was passing over the bridge dropped 25 feet into the bed of the gulch and was covered with debris. The driver of the truck lost his life.

Unusually high flood peaks were reported in the Little River Basin in Arkansas and Oklahoma from heavy rain that accompanied the inland passage of a tropical storm late in August. A few stations reported more than 10 inches of rain in 24 hours. A new record for 24-hour

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR AUGUST 1947

[All dates in August unless otherwise specified]

River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages— dates		Crest ¹	
		From—	To—	Stage	Date
ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE					
Edisto: Orangeburg, S. C.-----	<i>Feet</i> 7	{ 14 20	15 20	<i>Feet</i> 7.3 7.4	15 20
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM					
<i>Missouri Basin</i>					
Missouri:					
St. Joseph, Mo.-----	17	June 13	July 10	20.4	June 16
Lexington, Mo.-----	22	June 6	July 11	28.2	June 24
<i>Ohio Basin</i>					
North Fork: Hazard, Ky.-----	20	5	5	28.0	5
<i>Red Basin</i>					
Little:					
Horatio, Ark.-----	27	29	30	33.0	29
Whitecliffs, Ark.-----	25	31	Sept. 1	26.5	31
WEST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE					
East Fork: Rockwall, Tex.-----	10	29	30	12.2	30-31
Trinity: Dallas, Tex.-----	28	27	28	32.6	27
Guadalupe: Gonzales, Tex.-----	20	28	28	24.7	28

¹ Provisional.

precipitation of 9.18 inches was established at Dallas, Tex., during the passing of the storm. The Little River at Horatio, Ark., rose 28 feet in 24 hours and a rise of 18 feet was recorded at Whitecliffs, Ark., in the same length of time. Run-off rates were very high in spite of the dry conditions that prevailed at the beginning of the rain. Damage to highways, railroads, crops, and livestock was reported heavy.

Flood stages were exceeded slightly in the headwaters of the Trinity River.